

# Martin County JOURNAL

Year 15, Issue 12

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024

Eight pages

## Commissioners discuss animal control, ambulance service

The Martin County Commissioners met Tuesday morning, March 19.

Ambulance Director Jeramey Osborn gave his quarterly report early. Osborn said he wasn't sure when he would make it back to a meeting so chose to do it now. The ambulance service has done 356 runs so far in 2024 with 241 of those being transported to the hospital and has brought in \$85,905.87 in insurance reimbursements and self-payments. The ambulance service has bumped up their convalescent transports and have done 96 so far this year to bring in extra income.

Osborn said he would like to hire two additional staff members. He said that some of his crew are not interested in working overtime so he can take the overtime worked by those employees and hire two additional staff members. Osborn said he is short on paramedics and has a young staff, however two new employees are in paramedic school. The commissioners approved the addition of two staff members.

Osborn asked if there will ever be a plan to pave the civil defense parking lot. He said the ambulance and fire trucks are very heavy and they have to bring in gravel a lot. Commissioner Paul George asked Highway Superintendent Scott Seals to go have a look at the lot to see if he thought the highway department could pave it. Seals said he believes concrete would work better in the lot. He said he will have a look.

Courtney Hughett, Martin County Humane Society volunteer, talked to the commissioners about the lack of animal control in the county. She said the animal control position has been left vacant by the sheriff for six months and since that time, the sheriff's department dispatch is telling callers to contact the humane society for law

enforcement-related complaints. Hughett said she has been unable to get a response from the sheriff's department to get a resolution or find out why the animal control position is not being filled since it is fully funded, and the money has gone unused. She said residents who call the humane society to get resolution on complaints about their neighbor's pet on their property, dogs barking, welfare checks, etc. are getting very upset that they were told by dispatch that the humane society would handle it. Hughett reminded the commissioners that the humane society consists of unpaid volunteer citizens, and none have the authority or the ability to respond to enforcement-related calls, nor do they want to. Hughett said it has gotten so bad, she and her husband are ready to start backing away from the humane society completely. She said the county, on average, has provided the animal shelter \$9,000 a year to handle all animal issues for the entire county even though it is not a county entity. She said over the past several years, the humane society has been tasked with doing more and more on very little money and with volunteers.

Hughett said law enforcement will not even take in a stray dog for a few hours to search for an owner, they will call humane society volunteers at all hours to get someone to come get it. Hughett said she her phone was blowing up after 9 p.m. Monday night because a dog was at Marathon in Loogootee. She said the Loogootee Police refused to respond and the sheriff's department said they don't have animal control so there is nothing they can do. So Hughett had to have a volunteer get out of bed to go get it and the owner was located (See 'COMMISSIONERS' on page 2)

## Sergeant Wells becomes Martin County's first Drug Recognition Expert

The Martin County Sheriff's Office would like to congratulate Sergeant Johnathan Wells on his successful completion of the Drug Recognition Expert training.

On March 8, 2024, Sergeant Johnathan Wells successfully completed over 120 intensive hours of training and became a Drug Recognition Expert. The class was three weeks long and was funded by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute. The first two weeks of training were held at the Fishers Police Department. The last week of training was held in Jacksonville, Florida and consisted of evaluations and field studies.

Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) is advanced training for highly motivated law enforcement officers who are active in driving under the influence (DUI) enforcement. DRE's are trained to be proficient at identifying drugs and drug categories, as well as detecting signs that impaired drivers display when under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. They are further trained in documenting and testifying in court to support their evaluation. DRE's are the smallest specialized unit in all of law enforcement, representing only approximately 1 percent of the law enforcement population. Indiana only has approximately 220 DREs. Sergeant Wells is the Martin County Sher-



JOHNATHAN WELLS

iff's Office first DRE.

DREs are trained to observe the physical and clinical signs of the body that could affect the person to operate a vehicle safely. These signs could be caused by illegal drugs, alcohol, and even prescription drugs prescribed by a doctor. Just because a prescription drug is taken legally, it's illegal to operate a vehicle if that prescription drug causes impairment.

Sergeant Wells stated, "I am motivated to keeping our roadways safe and keep impaired drivers off the road."

## Martin County Alliance, Chamber of Commerce cohost annual dinner

Loogootee, IN (March 14, 2024) -The Martin County Alliance for Economic Growth and Martin County Chamber of Commerce co-hosted their annual dinner, on Thursday, March 14 at the lower level of St. John's Center. Over 170 Martin County business and community leaders were in attendance for the event.

The evening ceremonies began with opening prayer, led by Father Kenneth Walker. Following prayer, opening remarks were given from NSWC Captain, Rex A. Boonyabos. Captain Boonyabos discussed how important Martin County is to the mission at Crane. Next on the agenda, Martin County Alliance President, Cody Roush, thanked those in attendance for all their support of the Alliance. Jessica Potts, Martin County Alliance's Executive Director, hit on all the Alliance's accomplishments in 2023, and momentum the Alliance hopes to continue in 2024. Dinner for the event was catered by Carla's Catering.

Entertainment for the evening was Daniel Cullen. Daniel, a professional Mind Reader, spent the evening blending psychology, magic, and his own intuition in such a way that left the crowd speechless.

Terry Pielemeier presented the Gene Shaw Citizen of the Year Award to Mike Kirk, and thanked Mike for his many years of service to the fire department. The Gene Shaw Citizen of the Year Award is given for the citizen(s) who do an outstanding job of representing our county. Examples include: someone who works



-Photo provided

Mike Kirk received the Gene Shaw Citizen of the Year Award at the Alliance/Chamber annual dinner last week. Kirk served 57 years with civil defense and the Loogootee Fire Department.

hard to landscape their property so other residents and visitors have a positive experience driving through; a volunteer who picks up trash along our major roadways on a regular basis; someone aiding another person whose car has broken down or gives a cheerful smile as they take your lunch order; someone who volunteers and works tirelessly to help our many organizations; others who have the courage to start a new business, right here in Martin County, which ultimately improves our economy and quality of life.

## Shoals Town Council hears issues on parking, mobile homes and approves bids

The Shoals Town Council met for their monthly meeting on Monday, March 11. Those in attendance were Council Members Cary D. Albright, Roger L Abel, and Micky Crew; Clerk-Treasurer Sierra Rutledge, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Whitney Haulk, and Attorney Dave Lett. Others in attendance were Michelle Carrico with SIDC, Julie Fithian and Kevin Boyd.

Julie Fithian stated she had read the minutes from the last meeting and was present concerning the parking on Main Street. Fithian said she feared if reserved parking was going to start happening that the parking issues already happening on Main Street would get even worse. Fithian stated if reserved parking was going to be granted, she would be back to request the same for the VFW. Fithian suggested the council consider a "Veterans Only" parking for all businesses to be able to utilize.

Kevin Boyd came before the council with mobile home permit requests. He stated the requests were not completely filled out as he wanted to work with the town to clean up three old trailers on his lots. Boyd said he wanted to remove the old trailers but wanted to replace them with newer trailers. After discussion, the permits were not completed or brought to the table for approval due to the board and Boyd not being able to agree on the process to move forward with the permit. Boyd also stated that there would be no more parking allowed on his lots at each end of Main Street effective today.

President Albright presented two invoices from Oliver Masonry for the work

being done on the 232 Main Street Project. Albright stated the \$51,330 invoice is for the stabilization work being a one-third done and noted the \$50,000 from the Martin County Redevelopment Commission would cover the invoice and the second invoice in the amount of \$6,000 was for the roof removal. Councilwoman Crew made a motion to approve the invoices with Councilman Abel making the second.

Albright presented two Signature Authorized Resolutions naming him as the authorized signer for the water line project applications. Councilwoman Crew made a motion to approve with Councilman Abel making the second.

Councilman Albright presented an agreement to provide services from HWC Engineering for the 2024 ADA Transition plan updates. Councilman Abel made a motion to approve with Councilwoman Crew making the second.

Councilman Albright stated the previously opened mowing bids had been taken under advertisement and the council had interviewed the lowest bidder. Albright stated the council feels confident the low bidder can satisfactorily do the job. Councilman Abel made a motion to approve The Lawn Men bid for 2024 and 2025 with Councilwoman Crew making the second.

Councilman Albright stated that Fire Chief Hamby said the electrical work at the fire station had not started yet but they were on the list with the electrician for the (See 'SHOALS' on page 2)

# SHOALS

(Continued from page one)

work to be done.

Clerk Treasurer Rutledge presented a quote from the park board for a permanent pickle ball netting system for \$1,800. Councilman Abel made the motion to approve with Councilwoman Crew making the second. Rutledge stated the board planned to have the install done on Jug Rox Make A Difference Day.

Rutledge stated the board wanted an appropriation added to the EDIT fund for property clean ups and that would need approval. Councilwoman Crew made a motion to approve with Councilman Abel making the second.

Rutledge let the Council know that the annual Jug Rox Make A Difference Day was scheduled for March 28. She said OCRA would be on-site March 28 for the audit of the wastewater improvements project grant portion.

Rutledge reported the Town Wide Yard Sale event would be held May 17-19, if approved. Councilwoman Crew made the motion to approve with Councilman Abel making the second. She said the annual Spring Clean Up would be May 10-12, if approved. Councilman Abel made the motion to approve with Councilwoman Crew making the second.

Rutledge stated the Shoals Volunteer Fire Department grant for new turn out great had been submitted.

She reported the Total Eclipse in the Heart event was set to go and to date 18 vendors had signed up. She reminded the council that the Indiana Small Business Center Day was March 12. She also reminded the April meeting would be held

Monday, April 1 at 4 p.m.

Rutledge presented two meter deposit applies for T. Pope and K. Willis. Councilwoman Crew made a motion to approve with Councilman Abel making the second.

Rutledge reminded the council that the Town Hall would be closed Friday, March 29 in observance of Good Friday and Monday, April 8 for the Total Eclipse event. She also reminded them of the public hearing on the water line project at 5 p.m. on March 18 and the special session to be held after at 5:30 p.m.

Attorney Lett stated he had worked on property clean up notices with Ordinance Enforcer Ragsdale as requested by the council. Lett also stated that he would need to know what the council wanted to do about the Main Street parking issues once they made a decision.

Michelle Carrico, with SIDC, presented items for the Wastewater Improvements Project. Carrico presented change order #3 in the amount of \$118,112. Councilman Abel made the motion to approve with Councilman Albright making the second. Carrico presented Pay App #8 that is for change order #2 & #3 in the amount of \$24,210.17. Councilman Abel made the motion with Councilwoman Crew making the second. Carrico presented SRF Draw #21 in the amount of \$21,210.17. Councilman Abel made the motion to approve with Councilwoman Crew making the second. Carrico presented SRF draw #22 in the amount of \$9,480. Councilman Abel made the motion with Councilwoman Crew making the second.

# COMMISSIONERS

(Continued from page one)

before that volunteer even got back home. Hughett said there is no reason why if a dog is picked up in the middle of the day or late at night, that the sheriff's department or Loogootee Police cannot have a kennel set up in the sally port to hold it and look for an owner. She said there are 70 inmates in the jail who can help care for a dog as opposed to the humane society volunteers who are being asked to leave their paid jobs during the day or get out of bed at night to take care of it.

The commissioners agreed that law enforcement should be tasked with handling these issues and decided to set up an executive meeting with Sheriff Josh Greene to find out why the animal control position is not being filled. They agreed that humane society volunteers should not be asked to respond to leash laws or ordinance violations because they do not have the authority to do so.

Hughett told the commissioners that she and her husband have given 12 years to the county and have done their best to do what they can with what they are given. She said she believes they have done this to their own detriment because now everyone expects the humane society to do everything but not ask for any support, financial or otherwise. "They just want us to shut up and do it," she said. She said that's coming to an end now.

Clerk Julie Fithian asked if the commissioners have decided whether they want to close the courthouse on April 8, for the solar eclipse. Commissioner Aaron Summers said he knows Commissioner Cody Roush disagrees with him, but he is in favor of

closing that day. Commissioner George agreed and both voted in favor. Commissioner Roush opposed.

Fithian also asked about the two clocks that are out in front of the courthouse. She said neither work. Auditor Michelle Norris said the small clock belongs to the town of Shoals however the digital clock is the county's. Fithian asked if the big digital clock could be repaired. Commissioner George said he will contact Johnny Signs, who has looked at it before, and have them do an evaluation of the clock.

Commissioner George said they are planning to remodel the assessor and recorder's offices upstairs and questioned whether there was a holiday weekend this could be done, so those offices could be closed. He noted that someone would have to be present in the offices to oversee the workers, however. No decision was made on which holiday they could choose. George said the courtroom is also getting redone however he has been informed that court will not be in session during the remodeling so that will not be an issue. He asked about whether the downstairs restrooms could be closed for two weeks. Attorney Dave Lett said the courthouse would have to have some sort of accommodation for the public. Clerk Fithian, from the audience, said patrons could use the restroom upstairs for those two weeks, which is typically an employee bathroom.

Auditor Norris reported that she is still working with internet companies to eventually change the courthouse internet service provider. She said they are also working on printing spring tax bills that will be mailed soon.

# Community Foundation designated grants



-Photos provided

The Loogootee Public Library received \$1,301 from yearly "designated" grants from endowment funds held with the Martin County Community Foundation. \$933 was from the Loogootee Public Library Fund and \$368 was from the Bill and Pat Daily Fund. These funds help the library continue the important services that they provide. Shown above, from left to right, are MCCF Director Curt Johnson, MCCF Board members Paula Ringwald and Angie Risacher, Library Director Darla Wagler, and MCCF Board members Janie Johnson and Greg Bateman.



The Shoals Public Library recently received a \$691 grant from the Shoals Public Library Fund. This is a "designated" fund held with the Martin County Community Foundation that makes a distribution every year to benefit the library. Shown above, from left to right, are MCCF Board member Paula Ringwald, Assistant Librarian Mary Holt, and MCCF Board member Angie Risacher presenting the check to Library Director Sylvia Albaugh, and MCCF Board member Greg Bateman.

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8 ORCHARD ROAD, LOOGOOTEE 2:00-3:00 PM

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# OBITUARIES

## JOSEPH SPEARS

Joseph M. Spears Sr. passed away at 4:09 p.m. Thursday March 14, 2024, at Memorial Hospital and Healthcare Center with his nieces and nephew by his side. A resident of Loogootee, he was 83.

He was born May 28, 1940, in Shoals; son of the late George and Thursa (Hoke) Spears.

Joe was a member of the Sons of the American Legion. He was an avid base-



JOE SPEARS

ball fan and loved the St. Louis Cardinals.

He was preceded in death by his sons, Joseph M. Spears Jr and infant twins, Bobby Joe and Billie Joe Spears; parents, George and Thur-

sa Spears; partner, Vivian Chipley; and multiple siblings.

Joe is survived by his children, Samantha Jo (Johnnie Sr.) Thomas of Evansville, Tonya Dale (David) Epperson of Hardinsburg, Richelle Lynn (Aaron) Higdon of Kissimmee, Florida; Joni Lynne Draper (Dean Holt) of Cave City, Kentucky and Jessie Chipley of Kentucky; 19 grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren; and several nieces

and nephews.

A visitation will be held Saturday, April 6, from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Blake Funeral Home in Loogootee. A Celebration of Life will follow at the Loogootee American Legion from 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Condolences may be made online at [www.blakefuneralhomes.com](http://www.blakefuneralhomes.com).

Blake Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Joseph M. Spears Sr.

## ~LETTERS TO THE EDITOR~

### 'Shoals will always be home to our family'

To the editor of the *Martin County Journal* and the Town of Shoals,

It has been my honor and my privilege to have to have served you, the people of Shoals, the past six years. I will forever be thankful for the opportunity to serve such an amazing community. I am grateful and honored for the trust and confidence you have placed in me over my time serving as your clerk-treasurer. I have recently been presented with an opportunity in the private sector, and to accept this opportunity I will be resigning from the Office of the Clerk-Treasurer effective Monday, April 1, 2024. After much consideration and alongside my family, this is the best decision for us.

When I started serving the community in 2019, I pledged to work hard for Shoals, make a difference in our community, and help Shoals be the best it could be. Over the years, with many great teams, I believe we have elevated our community tremendously. I had a goal of putting Shoals on the map beyond our town limits. I believe WE have accomplished that together. Collectively, we have accomplished so many other great things continuously making efforts through quality of place initiatives and much more. We have built community partnerships that I know will be long lasting beyond my time. Together, as a team, we have laid a foundation of forward and progressive momentum that I believe will continue. There are so many amazing things happening in Shoals today, tomorrow and in the future. One of my favorite days of the year is always the "Jug Rox Make A Difference Day" made possible by the partnership with the Shoals Community School Corporation. This is a true community service day, and many great things are accomplished. The Martin County Alliance for Economic Growth Inc. continues to help grow our local business foundation, network and has shown to be a proven "difference maker" in Martin County.

The recent designation of a "Main Street Community" that has come from the hard work put in by the Historic Shoals River District proves that Shoals is dedicated to a better tomorrow for all. We have the BEST, most supportive local businesses that continue to contribute to many programs making them possible year after year. I believe we have set an example to other communities of what sharing a vision and working together can accomplish amazing things. The partnership and leadership that brought the "Hindustan Days" event back proves what can be achieved when local government, local businesses, individual citizens and other community partners sit together at the same table, roll up their sleeves and get to work. Here we are planning for year four, WE made it happen!

Thank you for your confidence in me in the past and as I transition into this opportunity. Upon my resignation day, all duties will smoothly transition over to a chosen successor. In my years of service to the clerk-treasurer's office we have implemented many streamlined processes along with succession planning to ensure the continuity of the office operations of Shoals.

Shoals will always be home to our family and will hold a very special place in our heart. If you know me well, you know just how much I love Shoals. I look forward to being able to volunteer as a citizen and continue to help make a difference. I will always be proud of my years of service that I was able to serve to the greatest place on earth to live!

My best,  
Sierra M. Rutledge

### 'We just need to stick together in our opposition'

To the editor of the *Martin County Journal*,

In this election season, it's often difficult to get our candidates to take a position on an issue. Especially if it might be a highly charged issue, like a new terrain highway. I have sent position statement

requests to every gubernatorial candidate, our local and state representatives and senate candidates, the Martin County Alliance and the Farm Bureau (both local and state). To date, only Senator Bassler has responded. Sen. Bassler is opposed to any new terrain highways.

All this means is that none of the politicians want to muddy the waters by getting involved at the local, grassroots level. Are they afraid of alienating someone or some group or do they not really understand the impact something like the Mid-States Corridor will have on a small, rural community? I cannot say which it is.

During the gubernatorial debate the other evening, issues like RDA projects were not discussed. Doesn't it seem odd that there was no discussion of these issues? RDA projects are in the works all around the state. We here in Southern Indiana are not the only ones who are being adversely affected by RDA projects. There is, however, a common theme, a

locally created agency is forcing an unwilling populace to accept the demands of a minority. As I have stated in the past, they are doing this without our consent.

The Revolutionary War was not won in a day or even a year, in fact it took 8 years, 1775 - 1783, to win. We can prevent the Mid-States Corridor, we just need to stick together in our opposition.

Jim Arvin  
Rutherford Township  
Martin County

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## Martin County Sheriff's Department activity log

### MONDAY, MARCH 11

3:05 a.m. - Received a 911 call with no one on the line. Major Reed responded.

6:59 a.m. - Received a call reporting a car-deer accident north of Loogootee. ISP Master Trooper Lents responded.

11:54 a.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn northeast of Loogootee.

12:19 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle identification number check in Loogootee. Loogootee Assistant Chief Long responded.

12:39 p.m. - Received a call reporting a suspicious vehicle on US 50, traveling east. Captain Gibson responded.

4:52 p.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn northeast of Loogootee.

5:11 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with an officer. Corporal Hawkins responded.

5:16 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle identification number check on an ATV northwest of Shoals. Corporal Hawkins responded.

5:21 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

5:57 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a reckless driver on US 231 North, traveling south. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

8:17 p.m. - Received a report of a suspicious male in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

8:22 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting an accident with no injuries in Loogootee. Corporal Hawkins and Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

11:33 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 12

2:06 a.m. - Received a call from Johnson Control advising of a commercial burglar alarm in Loogootee. Major Reed responded.

7:47 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting an accident northeast of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1, Chief Deputy Keller, Captain Gibson, Shoals Fire Department and Big John's Towing responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

11:41 a.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn northeast of Loogootee.

2:06 p.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn southeast of Shoals.

3:25 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with an officer. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

3:32 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a possible fire east of Loogootee. Loogootee Fire Department and Sergeant Wells responded.

3:32 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with an officer. Captain Gibson responded.

3:33 p.m. - Received a 911 call advising of a controlled burn east of Loogootee.

3:45 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle identification number check in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

4:35 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle unlock in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

4:53 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle identification number check on a motorcycle north of Shoals. Sergeant Wells responded.

5:13 p.m. - Received a call reporting a structure fire southwest of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1, Shoals Fire Department, Captain Gibson, Sergeant Wells, Corporal Hawkins, and Martin County Civil Defense responded. No one was transported.

5:15 p.m. - Received a call reporting the same fire. Advised caller units were en-

route.

5:24 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting the same fire. Advised units were enroute.

5:49 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 2, Loogootee Fire Department and Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded. Medic 2 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

7:13 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a neighbor dispute in Crane. Sergeant Wells responded.

8:25 p.m. - Received a call requesting a welfare check west of Shoals. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner and Corporal Hawkins responded.

8:37 p.m. - Received a call reporting a car-deer accident east of Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

8:38 p.m. - Received a call reporting embers still burning at structure fire southwest of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

9:47 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Loogootee Fire Department and Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded. No one was transported.

11:23 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance south of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Haysville Fire Department responded.

11:30 p.m. - Received a 911 call advising that the ambulance and first responders were no longer needed. Advised Medic 1 and Haysville Fire.

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

12:50 a.m. - Received a 911 call northeast of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 and Indian Creek Fire Department responded. No one was transported.

1:50 a.m. - Received a request for an ambulance in Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 responded. No one was transported.

2:56 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance north of Shoals. Martin County Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

3:55 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 2 responded and transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

7:03 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a car-deer accident north of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Medic 3, Captain Gibson, Loogootee Fire Department and Big John's Towing responded. No one was transported.

7:35 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance south of Loogootee. Martin County Medic 2, Medic 3, Haysville Fire Department and Martin County Civil Defense 406 responded. Medic 2 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

9:15 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 responded and transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

10:20 a.m. - Received a request for a vehicle identification number check on a boat. Sheriff Greene responded.

12:49 p.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn north of Loogootee.

3:29 p.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn north of Loogootee.

4:00 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Loogootee Fire Department and Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

4:13 p.m. - Received a report of a field fire south of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department responded.

6:02 p.m. - Received a call reporting possible vandalism in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

9:22 p.m. - Received a report of a con-

trolled burn east of Loogootee.

10:56 p.m. - Received a call from Lifeline advising of a medical push in Loogootee. Called back and advised it was accidental push.

### THURSDAY, MARCH 14

4:00 a.m. - Received a call reporting a cow in the roadway north of Shoals. Owner was notified.

6:50 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a car-deer accident east of Loogootee. Deputy Baumgart responded.

10:59 a.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle identification number check on an RV south of Loogootee. Deputy Branham responded.

11:09 a.m. - Received a call advising of a vehicle repossession south of Loogootee.

11:25 a.m. - Received a call from Care Center advising of a detected fall in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Medic 3 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. No one was transported.

12:43 p.m. - Received a call from Daviess County requesting an ambulance in Montgomery. Martin County Medic 1 responded but did not transport.

2:14 p.m. - Received a call advising of a controlled burn south of Shoals.

2:19 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Loogootee Assistant Chief Long responded.

2:45 p.m. - Received a report of a tree on a power line south of Shoals. Shoals Fire Department and REMC responded.

3:53 p.m. - Received a report of a vehicle disregarding a stop arm on a school bus north of Loogootee. All Martin County units were advised.

5:47 p.m. - Received a call from an alarm company advising of a commercial burglar alarm in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

6:14 p.m. - Received a call reporting a commercial burglar alarm in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

7:05 p.m. - Received a call from an alarm company advising of a commercial burglar alarm in Loogootee. Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

7:45 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Loogootee Fire Department and Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded. No one was transported.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 15

2:46 a.m. - Received a call reporting a tree down west of Shoals. Martin County Civil Defense and Deputy Baumgart responded.

6:37 a.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a reckless driver on US 231 South, traveling north. Loogootee Chief Hunt and Deputy Baumgart responded.

7:59 a.m. - Received a call from an alarm company advising of a commercial burglar alarm east of Loogootee. Deputy Branham responded.

11:55 a.m. - Received a report of a tree down northeast of Shoals. INDOT was notified.

12:34 p.m. - Received a call requesting an officer in Loogootee. Deputy Branham responded.

1:01 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a dispute south of Loogootee. Deputy Branham, Loogootee Assistant Chief Long and Loogootee Sergeant Wagoner responded.

2:32 p.m. - Received a call reporting an accident with no injuries in Shoals. Deputy Shields responded.

4:07 p.m. - Received a report of a stray dog south of Shoals. Advised caller to call humane society.

4:20 p.m. - Received a call reporting a possible scam. Deputy Shields responded.

5:53 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a possible traffic hazard east of Shoals. Deputy Shields responded.

7:24 p.m. - Received a call requesting an officer south of Loogootee. Deputy Shields and Loogootee Reserve Officer Shaw responded.

7:57 p.m. - Received a 911 call from CVS Pharmacy. Loogootee Reserve Officer Shaw responded.

8:33 p.m. - Received a 2<sup>nd</sup> 911 call from CVS Pharmacy. Loogootee Reserve Officer Shaw responded. Problems with phones again.

8:38 p.m. - Received a call from Area 1 Protection advising of a commercial burglar alarm in Loogootee. Loogootee Reserve Officer Shaw responded.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 16

9:24 a.m. - Received a call advising of a controlled burn north of Shoals.

10:08 a.m. - Received a call advising of a controlled burn south of Loogootee.

1:30 p.m. - Received a call requesting to speak with an officer. Deputy Branham responded.

2:24 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an officer in Loogootee. Loogootee Reserve Officer Shaw and Deputy Branham responded.

2:35 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a motorcycle accident with no injuries south of Shoals. Deputy Branham and Big John's Towing responded.

5:48 p.m. - Received a call requesting a vehicle identification number check in Shoals. Deputy Baumgart responded.

5:55 p.m. - Received a call reporting a suspicious person in Shoals. Deputy Branham responded.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 17

7:27 a.m. - Received a call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1 and Loogootee Fire Department responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

7:28 a.m. - Received a call from Care Center advising of a medical alarm push in Loogootee. Advised units were already enroute.

10:22 a.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn northeast of Loogootee.

11:33 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Martin County Medic 1, Loogootee Fire Department and Loogootee Reserve Captain Harmon responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Daviess Community Hospital.

11:38 a.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Loogootee. Advised caller units were already enroute.

11:41 a.m. - Received a call from Urgent Response advising of a medical alarm press north of Shoals. Deputy Doane and Shoals Fire Department responded.

12:55 p.m. - Received an animal complaint in Loogootee. Loogootee Reserve Captain Harmon responded.

2:22 p.m. - Received a report of a controlled burn south of Shoals.

2:23 p.m. - Received a call reporting a sewage issue in Loogootee. Advised Loogootee Utilities.

2:59 p.m. - Received a 911 call requesting an ambulance in Crane. Martin County Medic 1, Loogootee Fire Department and Crane Fire responded. Medic 1 transported one patient to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

5:48 p.m. - Received a call requesting an officer in Shoals. Corporal Hawkins and Deputy Doane responded.

5:48 p.m. - Received a call requesting an officer in Loogootee. Deputy Baumgart responded.

8:09 p.m. - Received a report of a possible break-in, in Shoals. Major Reed and Deputy Doane responded.

9:13 p.m. - Received a 911 call reporting a possible break-in, in Shoals. Advised caller units were there.

9:31 p.m. - Received a call advising of a neighbor dispute in Loogootee. Major Reed and Deputy Doane responded.

# COURT NEWS

## CRIMINAL CHARGES DISMISSED

March 6

Timothy Rogers, driving while suspended with prior conviction within 10 years, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed.

March 11

Amber F. Henard, driving while suspended with prior conviction within 10 years, a Class A Misdemeanor, dismissed.

## CIVIL COURT

New Suits Filed

March 6

Raven C. Davis vs. Joseph M. Davis, petition for dissolution of marriage.

## CIVIL COURT DISMISSED

March 11

Planet Home Lending, LLC vs. Katie Lynn E. Pulis, mortgage foreclosure, dismissed.

## SMALL CLAIMS COURT

New Suits Filed

March 8

Hoosier Accounts Service vs. Angel Skye Clifton, complaint.

## SMALL CLAIMS JUDGMENTS

March 8

Judgment in favor of the plaintiff Hoosier Accounts Service and against the defendant Robert J. Hawkins in the amount of \$1,956.46.

## MARRIAGE LICENSES

March 8

Lucas Harmon of Loogootee and Abigail Ackerman of Loogootee.

# ARRESTS

## MONDAY, MARCH 11

2:50 p.m. - Derrick Archer, 33, of Vincennes, was arrested on a Martin County warrant.

## TUESDAY, MARCH 12

11:05 p.m. - Rudy Jones, 67, of Shoals, was arrested by Sergeant Wells and charged with operating while intoxicated-endangerment. He is being held on \$10,000 10% bond.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

3:13 a.m. - Zachary Smith, 22, of Mitchell, was arrested by Major Reed and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated. He is being held on \$10,000 10% bond.

10:18 a.m. - Joseph Watson, 46, of Shoals, was arrested by Sheriff Greene on a Martin County warrant. He is being held without bond.

2:02 p.m. - Bradley Middleton, 57, of Terre Haute, was arrested by Sergeant Wells and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated-prior. He is being held on \$15,000 10% bond.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 14

6:56 p.m. - Brian Conley, 25, of Shoals, was arrested by Corporal Hawkins and charged with driving while suspended-prior and operating a vehicle while intoxicated. He is being held on \$10,000 10% bond.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 15

9:50 p.m. - Jayce Graber, 25, of Shoals, was arrested by Loogootee Reserve Officer Shaw and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated-endangerment. He is being held on \$10,000 10% bond.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 16

8:04 p.m. - Lester Brummett, 51, of Loogootee, was arrested by Loogootee Reserve Officer Shaw and charged with possession of methamphetamine. He is being held on \$15,000 10% bond.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 17

4:51 a.m. - Ivy Smith, 25, of Quincy, was arrested by Deputy Baumgart and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated-controlled substance, possession of marijuana and possession of a schedule 1 substance. She is being held on \$10,000 10% bond.

# Loogootee Police Department log

## MONDAY, MARCH 11

3:44 p.m. - Sergeant Wagoner responded to a call at the Martin County Recycling Center.

8:07 p.m. - Sergeant Wagoner responded to a call on Southwest Third Street.

8:22 p.m. - Sergeant Wagoner responded to a call at O'Reilly's Auto Parts.

## TUESDAY, MARCH 12

3:52 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department responded to a call on Isaacs Road.

9:47 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department and Sergeant Wagoner responded to a medical call on Oak Street.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

7:03 a.m. - Loogootee Fire Department responded to a call on Harper Hill Road.

1:49 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department and Sergeant Wagoner responded to a medical call on Cedar Street.

4:02 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department and Sergeant Wagoner responded to a medical call on Locust Street.

6:02 p.m. - Sergeant Wagoner responded to a call on Southwest Third Street.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 14

11:26 a.m. - Loogootee Fire Department responded to a medical call on Cedar Street.

7:45 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department and Sergeant Wagoner responded to a call on Sycamore Street.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 15

9:16 a.m. - Chief Hunt and Assistant Chief Long responded to a call near the post office.

9:34 a.m. - Assistant Chief Long responded to a call near Redemption Church.

12:02 p.m. - Sergeant Wagoner responded to a call on Butcher Boulevard.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 17

7:27 a.m. - Loogootee Fire Department and Officer Harmon responded to a medical call on JFK Avenue.

11:33 a.m. - Loogootee Fire Department and Officer Harmon responded to a medical call on Queen Street.

2:29 p.m. - Loogootee Fire Department responded to a medical call in Burns City.

# Martin County real estate transfers

**Brian D. Byrer, Theresa R. Smith a/k/a Teresa R. Smith and Brenda E. Roush**, of Martin County, Indiana to **Corbin Daniel Wildman**, of Martin County, Indiana, Lot Number 4 in Houghton's Addition to the City of Loogootee, Indiana.

**Adam J. Graber and Allison J. Graber**, of Martin County, Indiana to **Jeffrey W. Troutman and Vida R. Troutman**, of Dubois County, Indiana, a part of the southwest quarter of Section 18, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, Perry Township, Martin County, Indiana, containing 2.500 acres, more or less. More commonly known as 12986 Bellgrade Lane, Loogootee IN 47553.

**Roush Construction, LLC**, of Martin County, Indiana to **Country Boys Transport, LLC**, of Martin County, Indiana, Lots Numbered 31, 32, 37 and 38 in Williams Addition to the Town of Shoals, Indiana.

**Nancy Jo Stroud**, of Martin County,

Indiana to **Ohio River Veneer, LLC**, of Indiana, the north half of the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter, containing 20 acres; also the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter containing 10 acres, all in Section 13, Township 4 North, Range 3 West; and the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter containing 40 acres; the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter containing 10 acres and the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter containing 10 acres, all in Section 12, Township 4 North, Range 3 West, containing 90 acres. The northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 12, Township 4 North, Range 3 West, containing 10 acres. The south half of the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 13, Township 4 North, Range 3 West, containing 20 acres, more or less. More commonly known as 20261 N State Road 450 Shoals IN 47581.



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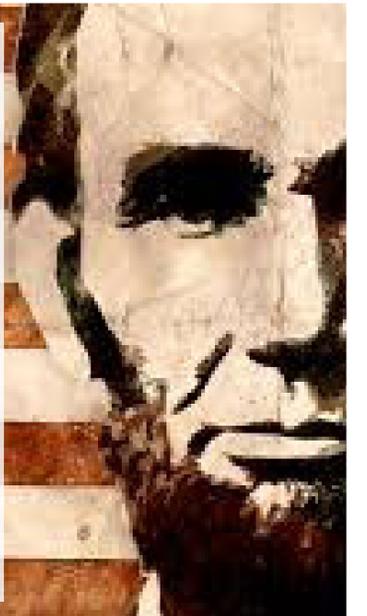
# FILL A BUCKET SALE

FRIDAY, APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup> - SATURDAY, APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

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**MARTIN COUNTY REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

## LINCOLN DAY DINNER

Featured Speaker: Indiana State Senator 48th District Mark Messmer, candidate for U.S. Representative 8th District

FRIDAY, APRIL 5 • Doors open at 5 p.m., Dinner at 6:29 p.m.

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## More Neat Stuff

By Ann Ackerman



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Loogootee School Board meeting

The Loogootee School Board will meet Thursday, March 19 at 5 p.m. in the high school media center. The meeting is open to the public.

### Annual banquet

First Choice Solutions will hold their Gift of Life annual fundraising banquet as they celebrate 25 years of incorporation. Participants can choose two dates: dinner Friday evening, April 12, at 6 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Or brunch Saturday, April 13, at 10 a.m. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. The keynote speaker is Mike Fichter, President and CEO of Indiana Right to Life. The event will be held at Bethany Christian Church, 1139 S St Rd IN-57, Washington. To reserve a seat, call 812-257-1041.

### Cancer Patient Services fundraisers

Martin County Cancer Patient Services will hold an online Facebook auction starting Friday, March 29 through Wednesday, April 3. More information can be found on their Facebook page. The group will also hold a Tea Party on Saturday, April 27 from 1-3 p.m. at the Loogootee United Methodist Church. Tickets are \$25 each. To purchase, contact Linda Knight at 812-583-3692 or Robin Hart at 812-295-6739.

### Dates set for US 50 Yard Sale

The Great U.S.50 Yard Sale will celebrate 25 years this May 17, 18, and 19. The sale began in 2000 as a way to promote local tourism, encourage re-use, provide participants with additional income, and to provide savings and adventure for buyers. From its origins in North Vernon, Indiana, it has expanded across several states as an anticipated annual event. There are no fees associated with the sale, nor any central clearing house. Sellers are invited to set-up along U.S. 50, subject to local zoning or other rules. Permissions required to set-up on private property and sellers should be safety conscious about parking, ingress, and egress. Community organizations are welcome to use the sale as a way to raise funds. For further information, contact Tom Taylor totaylor@sei-data.com.

### Celebrate Recovery meetings

Celebrate Recovery meetings will be held every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at The River Church in Shoals. This is a Christ-centered

recovery program and anyone is welcome to attend.

### Dog/cat Wellness Clinic

The Martin County Humane Society hosts a wellness clinic on the third Friday of each month from 5-6 p.m. The clinic offers low-cost vaccines, testing, nail trims, etc. No appointment needed.

### St. Vincent Food Pantry

The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, on Park Street in Loogootee, is open the fourth Thursday of the month except November and December when they are open the third Thursday. The hours are 9 a.m.-noon and 1-3:30 p.m.

### Free lunch for kids

New Beginnings Community Church will be offering a free lunch to all school age children every Saturday. Lunches can be picked up at the fellowship hall of the church, located at 105 Wood St, Loogootee no later than 10:30 a.m. Deliveries will begin between 10:30 and 11 a.m. Saturdays.

### SOAR Tutoring

Need Skills? SOAR tutors can help! Free and confidential. Call or text Karen at 812-709-1618 to learn more. Located in the Martin County Community Learning Center Improve Your Skills, Improve Your Life!

### LUMC Food Pantry

The Loogootee United Methodist Church Food Pantry is open every Thursday (except the fourth Thursday) from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

### Solid waste board

The Martin County Solid Waste Board holds their monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. at the recycling center located at 500 Industrial Park Drive in Loogootee. The meetings are open to the public and anyone is invited to attend.

### Soil and Water meetings

The Martin County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) meets the third Tuesday of the month at the SWCD office located at 404 JFK Avenue in Loogootee. The meetings are at 7:30 p.m. (April-October) and at 6:30 p.m. (November-March). Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Please call 812-295-3149 for assistance.

### THOUGHTS

\*Shoutout to everyone who can still remember their childhood phone number but can't remember the password they created yesterday.

\*Life has taught me to learn from mistakes. So, I went ahead and made more mistakes just to be absolutely sure I truly grasped the lessons.

\*I've reached the age when my train of thought often leaves the station without me.

\*In high school, I was so excited to become a senior. I'm not too excited now.

\*Just once, I want the prompt for username and password to say, "Close Enough!"

\*Becoming an adult is the dumbest thing I've ever done.

\*Your call is important to us. Please enjoy this 40-minute flute solo.

\*Does everyone have a plastic bag full of plastic bags, or is it just me?

\*I hate it when I can't figure out how to operate the iPad and my tech support guy is asleep. He's 5 and it's past his bedtime.

\*Today's 3-year-olds can switch on laptops and open their favorite apps. When I was 3, I ate mud.

When Forrest Gump died, he stood in front of St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter said, "Welcome, Forrest. We've heard a lot about you." He continued, "Unfortunately, it's getting pretty crowded up here and we find that we now have to give people an entrance examination before we let them in."

"Okay," said Forrest. "I hope it's not too hard. I've already been through a test. My momma used to say, 'Life is like a final exam. It's hard.'"

"Yes, Forrest, I know, but this test is only three questions. Here they are."

1) "Which two days of the week begin with the letter 'T'?"

2) "How many seconds are in a year?"

3) "What is God's first name?"

"Well, sir," said Forrest, "The first one is easy. Which two days of the week begin with the letter 'T'? Today and Tomorrow."

St. Peter looked surprised and said, "Well, that wasn't the answer I was looking for, but you have a point. I give you credit for that answer."

"The next question," said Forrest, "How many seconds are in a year? Twelve."

"Twelve?" said St. Peter, surprised and confused.

"Yes, sir. January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd ..."

St. Peter interrupted him. "I see what you mean. I'll have to give you credit for that one, too."

"And the last question," said Forrest, "What is God's first name? It's Andy."

"Andy?" said St. Peter, in shock. "How did you come up with 'Andy'?"

"I learned it in church. We used to sing about it. 'Forrest broke into song, 'Andy walks with me, Andy talks with me, Andy tells me I am His own.'"

St. Peter opened the gate to heaven and said, "Run, Forrest, Run!"

When you're 20 you care what everyone thinks.

When you're 40 you stop caring what everyone thinks.

When you're 60 you realize no one was ever thinking about you in the first place. -Winston Churchill

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## THE BEATLES

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The cicadas are coming! The cicadas are coming! Maybe not.

In the style of twenty-first century journalism, sensationalism sells. I have had some inquiries by readers who have seen some national magazine articles and internet sources listing Indiana as one of the states where cicadas from two different periodical broods will emerge this year. While it is true that there will be two broods emerging this year, only a small part of western Indiana will be affected. As I usually do when readers ask questions outside my areas of expertise, I consulted the good people at Purdue University and other experts. That being said, I have learned a lot about cicadas and have refreshed my mind, having last researched this insect three years ago, when Brood X emerged in Indiana.

There are some 3400 species of cicadas around the world. They may be found on every continent except Antarctica. There are nine species of periodical cicadas, seven of which are found in the United States. There are annual cicadas that appear every year, but the numbers are relatively small, and they do not attract much attention. They emerge from the ground, mature to their adult stage and mate. The females lay their eggs on the tips of leaves, causing negligible damage, and then the adult cicadas die. The larva emerges from the eggs a few weeks later and burrows into the ground, where they will feed on the roots of trees, and do not really cause damage.

There is a lot that scientists do not understand about the periodical cicada broods. There are two distinct types. One lives in a 17-year cycle, while the other has a 13-year cycle. There are several different broods of each type, each designated by a Roman numeral. Within each brood, there may be cicadas of different cicada species.

Later this spring, cicadas from Brood XIII, a 17-year periodical, and Brood

XIX, a 13-year brood, will emerge from the ground. The last time these two broods emerged in the same year was 1803. Thomas Jefferson was president and the area where the broods intersect was on the frontier. This will not occur again for another 221 years. Entomologists say that the broods will include cicadas from all seven periodical species found in the United States.

Brood XIX will emerge in parts of 15 states, mostly across the south and up into Missouri and Illinois. Brood XIII has a smaller coverage, concentrated in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. The areas of the two broods meet in central Illinois, where trillions of cicadas are expected this summer. Cicada emergence begins when soil temperatures reach 64 degrees Fahrenheit, usually from late April until June. The greatest effect the cicadas will have on humans will be the sound of the male mating signals, which may get as loud as a jackhammer. The other annoyance will be the bodies of the dead adults, which could be in such masses that they will make for slick surfaces.

The cicadas will mean plentiful food for birds, mammals, reptiles and fish. Fishermen will have a steady supply of bait for a couple of weeks. The eggs on the tips of leaves may cause some damage to young trees, but it is usually not enough to kill a healthy tree.

Scientists will flock to central Illinois to study the broods. They are interested in determining if there will be any cross-breeding between the two broods. By early July, the cicadas will have disappeared.

In short, the area of southern Indiana where this column reaches will not see much from this double brood emergence. Counties along the Illinois border may see some cicadas, but if you want to see the intersection of the broods, you will have to go to central Illinois. Be sure to take earplugs.

## Bluffs of Beaver Bend Wildflower Walk to be held April 20

The Daviess-Martin Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) will host a wildflower walk on Saturday April 20 at 10 a.m. at the Bluffs of Beaver Bend Nature Preserve in Shoals. The event is free, but space is limited, and attendees must RSVP by emailing emily.finch@in.nacdn.net or calling 812-329-0048. Attendees will learn to identify the wide variety of native plants growing along the roadway at the base of the bluffs and up into the rocks, as well as the invasive garlic mustard that threatens them. No special equipment will be needed. The roadway follows closely along the bluffs so this walk will be accessible for all abilities. The event will take place rain or shine, unless severe weather is forecast.

To reach the Bluffs, turn south from Highway 50 at the east end of the White River bridge, onto Water Street in downtown Shoals. Stay on this street/road for exactly one mile, passing the fire station and crossing the bridge over Beaver Creek. Stop immediately and park along the road near Spout Springs. The guided nature walk will take attendees from Spout Springs into the nature preserve itself.

Emily Finch from the Martin County SWCD,



## Youth reserved turkey hunt applications open

Youth younger than age 18 on the day of their hunt may apply March 18-28 for reserved youth turkey hunts on DNR properties during this year's youth turkey hunting season, which runs April 20-21.

Interested youth hunters or an adult representing them must register in person or by phone during regular office hours for the property they wish to hunt.

More information about the participating properties and youth turkey hunt regulations is at [bit.ly/3Zquj5y](http://bit.ly/3Zquj5y).

Hunters are allowed to register for only one property. Limits are placed on the number of youth hunters allowed to hunt a respective property each day. A drawing will be held on Monday, April 1,

at properties where the number of registered hunters exceeds the spots available. A youth hunter may be drawn for one or both hunt days, depending on the number of applicants. All applicants will be notified of the drawing results by mail.

To register a youth for a hunt, the following information is needed:

- Hunter's name
- Type of license and license number
- Hunt date(s)
- Mailing address
- Phone number
- Parent or guardian's name, address, and phone number

To purchase a hunting or hunting apprentice license, visit [on.IN.gov/inhuntfish](http://on.IN.gov/inhuntfish).

## Prescribed fire season in progress on the Hoosier National Forest

The USDA Forest Service is conducting seasonal prescribed burning this spring on the Hoosier National Forest. Prescribed fire is used to maintain, restore or improve early successional habitat for wildlife, maintain wetlands, restore and maintain unique barren communities, and restore oak-hickory dominated ecosystems. It also reduces the amount of woody material on the forest floor, thereby lowering the risk of catastrophic wildfire, and increases plant diversity.

Prescribed burns are conducted on National Forest System lands and through agreements with adjacent private landowners. Areas being considered for burning have signage placed in advance, but determination of whether a fire will be implemented will be made on the day of the burn after careful evaluation of key factors and conditions. Forest staff notifies residents and businesses in the immediate area of a potential prescribed burn one or two days prior depending on neighbor preference. Check the Forest's

social media accounts for announcements of burns at [www.facebook.com/HoosierNF/](http://www.facebook.com/HoosierNF/) and <https://twitter.com/HoosierNF>.

Designated burn units are closed to all public entry, including hunting, on the day of the burn and until the area is considered safe. For your safety, please contact the Indiana Interagency Coordination Center Dispatcher (812-547-9262) if you plan to hunt or camp in or near a prescribed burn area.

Smoke is an unavoidable consequence of prescribed burning. Fire managers burn only under atmospheric conditions specified in a burn plan and rely on meteorologic data to choose days in which the impacts of smoke are minimized. Smoke plumes from a prescribed fire usually rise high into the air where the smoke dissipates. If smoke is present on roadways, motorists should reduce speeds and turn on headlights.

All burns are implemented under carefully planned prescriptions and protocols to mitigate the risk of an escaped fire and smoke exposure to communities. Forest neighbors who wish to be notified of a specific date of a burn, or those who wish to report medical conditions that could be affected by smoke, may contact the Indiana Interagency Coordination Center Dispatcher at 812-547-9262.

## Perennial Exchange Spring Plant Swap

The Perennial Exchange Spring Plant Swap will be held from 9-1, Saturday April 20 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Feldun Purdue Agricultural Center at 1117 State Road 458 in Bedford. The Perennial Exchange is open to all residents of south-central Indiana who are interested in learning about, sharing and using perennial plants. Members bring perennial plants from their own gardens to exchange with each other. This meeting will see the return of a garden tour after the formal meeting and swap are completed.

For more information on the group, visit our website at [theperennialexchange.com](http://theperennialexchange.com) or call Martin County Coordinator Karen Whorrall at 812-388-6639.

A \$10 registration fee is required to cover continental breakfast and lunch costs.

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### Annual Community EASTER EGG HUNT

**Date: March 30, 2024**

**Time: 11:30 am**

**Place: American Legion Country Club**

Grand Prize: New Children's Bike  
\*\*one per age group  
Runner-Up: Easter Basket  
\*\*one per age group

Sponsored by:  
Knights of Columbus Council #732 Ladies Auxiliary & Father Gerdon Jones Council  
American Legion Post #120 Ladies Auxiliary & Sons of the Legion  
VFW Post 9395 Ladies & Men's Auxiliary

Above is a map showing the wildflower walk event location just south of Shoals.

and CISMA volunteers Karen Whorrall and Marion Mason will lead the walk, which is expected to last about 45 to 60 minutes.

For more information on the nature preserve visit the Indiana DNR website at [www.in.gov/dnr/naturepreserve/files/np-BluffsofBeaverBend.pdf](http://www.in.gov/dnr/naturepreserve/files/np-BluffsofBeaverBend.pdf). If you're interested in learning more about invasive species in the area, follow the Daviess-Martin CISMA on facebook at [www.facebook.com/Daviess-Martin-CISMA-262962797961644](http://www.facebook.com/Daviess-Martin-CISMA-262962797961644) or check out their webpage at [www.Daviess-CoSWCD.com/invasive-species](http://www.Daviess-CoSWCD.com/invasive-species).

# PURE COUNTRY *Throwback* By Dan Gregory

Originally published January 15, 2007

Spring! The dictionary has several definitions of the word. The definitions of "spring" go on for several paragraphs. Amongst them are nouns, adjectives and verbs, all that stuff that our grade and high school teachers tried to force into our minds and try and convince us we would find to be useful information or knowledge someday. I remember trying to grasp the difference, and honestly English became the class I hated the most. And my grades certainly reflected it.

The definition I am most interested in today was found about midway through. It says spring: the season of the year after winter, when plants begin to grow in the temperate and colder regions of the earth (that's us here in Martin County) in the months of March, April and May. The figurative use of the word says "the first and most vigorous stage of anything, especially of life. Why write about spring in January? Mainly because I always relate January as a month to kind of "hold your breath" and just get closer to springtime. It really won't be that long until the earth rotates back to the warm rays of sunshine and the plants will respond as they have for eons. In biblical speak, "New birth will be created and the whole face of the earth will be renewed."

We are fortunate here in this area of the country to have seasonal changes that are pronounced enough to get the full effect. Ask most anyone and winter is not the favorite. After that, you can pretty much evenly split spring, summer, or fall as far as a popularity contest goes.

Farm publications are full of stories about the ethanol craze. Ethanol is derived from processing corn into a liquid fuel that will burn in most newer vehicles similar to a petroleum-based fuel. The technology is not

new, just the price of oil has made it competitive. With ethanol production facilities being built around the Midwest at a rapid pace, ethanol is being looked at as the "gold rush" of energy production and investment. Agricultural economists are busy explaining all of the potential impacts on the various industries and inter-relationships this gold rush will have, not just domestically, but worldwide, for anything that depends on corn as a base commodity. In the past, and well into the future, the world has largely depended on petroleum-based energy supplies. I have heard since I was old enough to grasp the concept of supply and demand, how finite petroleum reserves are. The term "renewable energy" which gets tossed around a lot in reference to ethanol, implies that it is infinite, and to a point, it is. But using logic and common sense, I would suggest that it isn't a guaranteed renewal, mainly due to fluctuations in weather.

With the increased demand for corn used in ethanol production, there is already an economic ripple effect on every other product that uses corn as a part of production. The silver lining to the gold rush of ethanol is prices for raw corn are near all-time highs and the grain farmers need it. There is certainly a case to be made that increased profitability might lead to increased production and thus the supply demand equation will fix itself. We will soon observe our great American farmers planting... as always... for us. Each one of these farmers deserves to be better compensated than they have in the past for the risk they take in providing us with the necessities of life. Regardless of what the "end use" of their production is, we need to be thankful that someone is willing to step up and take the risk.

Spring begins in 58 days!

## Phoebe Jones attends 4-H Day at the Indiana Statehouse representing Martin County

Phoebe Jones, Martin County 4-H Member and 7th student at Loggootee Middle School, recently attended 4-H Day at the Statehouse.

In regards to the educational program, Jones said "I went to the 4-H Statehouse Day to represent Martin County. I learned more about how our state government runs. The Day was a great learning experience and a lot of fun. I definitely plan on attending again, because I had fun, learned a lot, and the food was great!"

She went on to say, "Other kids should plan on attending with me next year because it is a free day out of school, they will learn about our state policies and how laws are made, and it's a great opportunity to connect with others like themselves."

As part of learning civic engagement across disciplines in building college and career pathways, Jones and others had the opportunity to visit the Integrated STEM breakout session. The session included representatives from Crane Naval Base, the Joint Hypersonics Transition Office, Crane Army Ammunition Activity (CAAA), Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) and The National Security Innovation Network (NSIN).

"It was an honor to share information about NSA Crane and all of our Team Crane partners and commands to both the 4-H Students and state leaders. The installation is excited to provide opportunities for STEM and career awareness events and to continue to engage communities,



-Photo provided

Shown above, from left to right, are Bruce Drake, Public Affairs Officer, Navy Support Activity Crane; 4-H Member Phoebe Jones and Mark Dobbs, NSA Crane Community Planning Liaison Officer.

schools, and the state in collaborative initiatives in the future." - Mark Dobbs, NSA Crane Community Planning Liaison Officer.

Installation Public Affairs Officer for NSA Crane Bruce Drake shared, "It was a pleasure to meet all the 4-H Student Ambassadors from around the state who came to Indianapolis and learn from them what they are looking for in future STEM positions and how Naval Support Activity Crane and its partnered Army and Navy commands that are on the installation may meet their desires to work within those fields here in the State of Indiana."

Jones is the daughter of Sarha Jones and Dakota Simmerman. Jones is an avid 4-H member, where she proudly shares that 4-H is a great place where kids can come together to learn how to problem solve, work together, and have a good time.

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